




The newsletter of Men of All Colors Together Philadelphia

JUNE 2007

Challenger



Don't miss the largest LGBT Networking Day in the Greater Philadelphia Area!

Over 70 different Community Groups Networking

Over 50 different Merchants & Craft People selling their stuff

Over 15,000 people celebrating their Pride

Pride Parade

Sunday, June 10

We need all those that can march to meet on 13th St. near Woody's at 11:30 AM. The march kicks off at 12 noon.

Pride Festival

Noon to 7:00 PM

We need helpers to setup the table before 11 AM. We also need people to staff the table during the day. Please contact Stevie or Aaron to volunteer.

Hi this is Stevie... Well it's that time again. I hope everybody is well and I hope you all made some new friends. I think the phone calls will help make that happen. We have 61 members now. Our newest member is Anthony F. He joined at the anniversary, so we presented him to the chapter there. We have five perspective members this month. Let me tell you some things about our members. Christopher Blandford is doing better. Art and myself celebrated our 13th anniversary May 14th. It is also the anniversary of the Theatre of Understanding. I think I wrote about Ken and Steve celebrating their 40th anniversary last month. And of course you all remember Lenny Stanton, he and his boyfriend Dennis have been together 21 months. I want to remember our members who live in other states. Bob Williams, who is a lifetime member lives in Florida and Andy Folkman who lives in Connecticut.

We have convention coming up and that's always exciting. Gay pride will be Sunday, June 10th this year and the festival will be at Penn's Landing. I'm not sure about the parade route but it will be in the PGN.

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From the Co-chair Aaron Libson

Well we've completed our 26th anniversary weekend and from all accounts it was a success. From the reception at John B.'s to the Theater of Understanding to the awards banquet to the brunch and the joint event at Haru we had good attendance and favorable comments. Further, we ended in the black. Look in this newsletter to see the new leadership.

Our May general meeting was interesting (on wellness). While attendance was small, everyone enjoyed the presentation. We have this month's meeting and we break for the summer.

June 10th is Pride Day. We will have a table. Can you spare some time to sit there? Contact me or anyone on the list. John Speer is trying to put together a parade group. Contact him if you would like to march. The AIDS thrift shop is having a bowling fund raiser on June 9th in

See CO-CHAIR on page 2

Membership Application

If you are not a member of MACT/Philadelphia, why not join us?

Please fill out and mail this form to:
 MACT/Philadelphia, PO Box 42257, Philadelphia, PA 19101
 Make check payable to **MACT/Philadelphia**

Take a \$5 discount on full year membership when you become a member of the NABWMT

Renewal / Full year – couple \$45 – individual \$30 (July 1 through June 30)
 Individual (10/1 – 6/30) \$22.50 – Individual (1/1 – 6/30) \$15
 Individual (3/1 – 6/30) \$7.50

Name (1) _____
 Second Person _____
 Of couple (2) _____
 Street Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Telephone _____
 e-mail _____
 Birthday (1) _____ Birthday (2) _____

Periodically we use images of our members in the newsletter and on our website.
 Please indicate below your willingness to allow these images to be used.
Group Picture YES / NO Single Picture YES / NO

Signature _____

Unless checked applicant's name will be added to our Membership directory that is sent to all MACT/P members.

Members are encouraged to join one or more committees.
 Please circle your committee choices

**Membership ♦ Rap/CR ♦ Social ♦ Newsletter ♦
 Political Action ♦ Health Education**

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Men of All Colors Together Philadelphia, is a gay multiracial, multicultural organization committed to fostering supportive environments wherein racial, social and cultural barriers can be overcome and the goal of human equality realized. To these ends, Men of All Colors Together Philadelphia, engages in educational, political, cultural and social activities as a means of dealing with racism, sexism, homophobia, heterosexism, HIV/AIDS, ageism, ableism, classism, and other inequities in our communities and in our lives.

Happy Birthday

Charles A.	06/07	William N.	06/10
Brian C.	06/19	Nate O'N.	06/21
Gerald S.	06/28	Steve G.	06/30

Spartans to host their first free-style tournament!

The Spartans will host the Philadelphia Pride Tournament Saturday, June 9th as part of Team Philadelphia's Sport Week 2007.

Benjamin Franklin High School
 550 North Broad Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19130

Doors Open, Warm-up and Weigh-ins	12:00 pm
Wrestling tournament	1:00 - 4:30 pm
Awards following tournament	4:30 pm

Admission: \$10 for Spectators

For more information Contact: Ed Wengryn at ed32164@comcast.net or call 908-568-4939

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south Philly.

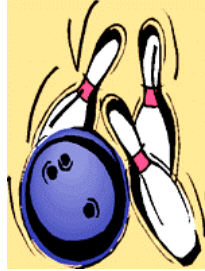
The Hillside camping trip is coming soon. I need to know if you are planning to go. Call me or email me. The August camping trip will be at Oneida on August 24,25,26. The theme is "Mardi Gras". For more information contact me.

In July Ron Sy is planning an event at his house. Details in the next newsletter. Don't forget Labor Day on the farm!

Finally, please renew your memberships now. Also, those who take out a National BWMT membership get \$5.00 off their MACT membership.

Join P.A.T. (Philly AIDS Thrift) for
bowling fun and to help them stay
COOL!

Saturday, June 9th
8:00 PM to
Midnight



St. Monica's Bowling Center, 16th &
Shunk in South Philly (3-block walk from
the Broad St., Oregon Ave. Station).

\$20.00 in advance, \$25.00 at the door
For more information please call 215-922-3186

Philly AIDS Thrift (P.A.T.) has raised over \$50,000 for local HIV/AIDS organizations from sales at our store at 514 Bainbridge St. To keep our customers (and money!) rolling in, we need to keep them **COOL** this summer with a new A.C. system! Come bowling to help us reach our goal! Donations always welcome!

MACT/P members react to

“OUR PREJUDICES, OUR SELVES”, by Harvey Fierstein from the May newsletter (page 2). “AMERICA is watching Don Imus's self-immolation in a state of shock and awe. And I'm watching America with wry amusement.”

I don't usually get that response. I think some straight people just know me and either don't want to hear my response to one similar to those you hear, or don't share that point of view. However, we are certainly not alone. Hispanic immigrants, because of their so-called illegal status, Arab, Muslims and anyone who vaguely resembles them such as Indians and those from many other parts of the world since 9-11, are now on the list of people to despise along with us. But in a survey of who folks would not want living next store to them, we queer folks ranks at the top. So while we have some new rights in some places, I guess neighbors don't trust us with their kids.

John Speer

I made similar points to people who discussed the Ishmus fiasco with me - How making public antigay remarks is still acceptable. I cited Rick Santorum's remarks. I had written the Director of the Merck PAC (who is Black) in protest over Merck contributing to Santorum's re-election campaign. I received an unapologetic reply. When I was talking with a co-worker about Isimus her comment was - "You always have your side of the issue don't you." When I talk to people about LGBT civil rights now I frequently hear that this is my issue as though it should be compartmentalized and it is OK for LGBTs to advocate for equality but there is no reason for heterosexuals to feel obligated to pitch in.

Corbett

Found by Jeff Keith

[The Bulletin of the Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force for January, 1982, was entitled "Focusing on the Black and White of It" and had articles on race relations within the Philadelphia LGBT communities and around the country. One article consisted of short interviews with local activists on these issues, including the following one with Jerry Mallon. There were also articles by other members of our group, such as Larry Frankel and Mitchell Chase.]

INTERVIEW WITH GERALD MALLON, Chairperson of
Black and White Men Together
(Interview conducted by Kathy Anderson of the Task Force)

K: When and why was Black and White Men Together (BWMT) formed in Philadelphia?

G: The organizing meeting was held in January of 1980.* The previous year, the San Francisco group had formed, and a need was felt for a similar group in Philadelphia.

K: What are the goals of BWMT?

G: Our basic goal is to fight racism. We also want to act as a support mechanism for our members and to create a vehicle for less oppressive interracial relating among gay people.

K: Was there an initial goal to reform the bars and other institutions in the gay community?

G: Not at first. We felt we needed to set up a viable organization first, and worked for several months on organizing the group. We do now have a Political Action Committee, which is involved in a bar documentation project. They are gathering evidence on discrimination and plan to confront the offending bars.

K: How is BWMT organized?

G: There is a Steering Committee that is made up of the chairpersons of the standing committees, some of which are Communications, Social, and Support Group. We also have membership at large on the Steering Committee. Once a month we have general meetings, which address special topics related to racism, both institutional and personal. We also have a support group that meets twice a month and deals with topics on a more personal level. Some of our more recent topics have been on racial stereotypes and fantasies, for example.

K: What kind of education projects and activities has BWMT worked on, both alone and with other groups?

G: We were recently involved with the Falwell demonstration. We were co-sponsors, with the Gay and Lesbian Interreligious Committee on Racism and Sexism, of the recent appearance of Reverend Tinney, a black gay minister. We conducted a workshop on confronting racism for Dignity's Fifth Convention. The Workshop Guide, which I prepared, has since been requested by other groups. We are also filing a grievance to the Gay Press Association about the Gay News' employment ads, which illegally specify race wanted.

K: Do you have policies regarding representation by race on your committees?

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Hillside Camping

June 29 thru July 4

July 4th Party Weekend: This is a really big weekend and a way for owner Dave to say “thank you” for your support and friendship over the years. Dave is not charging extra for this “six day” weekend — your rate is the same as any other holiday weekend. It doesn’t get any better than this. Events include the 8th annual Pride Parade, Saturday’s 13th annual Debutante Ball Party titled “*Divas of the Silver Screen*,” the holiday NNS Party and an evening Stage Show. **Show Weekend!**

Cost for the entire weekend will be – to the camp \$70.00 plus membership fee \$6.00; to Aaron for food \$30.00. You can’t beat that any where so call Aaron ASAP at 215-455-6038 to reserve your spot for the weekend.

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Okay guys, what we need for pride are marchers, help setting up the table, help giving out information at the table, and closing down the table. You can call me or Aaron about that. We always like to have a good turn-out. It’s a fun day and it’s an important day. This would be a good time to say “I’m proud of this organization”. If you’ve never shown it before, now this is the time. We are also supposed to be marching in New York City on Sunday, June 24th but Art and I are not sure if we are going to go. If you want to go and walk proudly with our banner, guard the banner with your life. Call me to get the banner and march.

We are trying to revamp a committee. I think we’re going to call it Health and Education Committee. If you are interested e-mail or call the Co-chairs. The committee doesn’t have to be real big but it can’t be just one person.

For you new members if you were thinking about having a pot luck you can have one. If you have a topic for the General Meeting or a topic for the Theatre of Understanding, tell us. June will be our last meeting until September.

The anniversary was wonderful. Congratulation to the anniversary committee. They did a wonderful job. Thank you all for participation in the Theatre of Understanding. We are working on a workshop that we put together that day, the topic was “Queer Agenda – Making Our Own Place at the Table and Solutions”. For those of you who don’t realize all of the Equality Forum workshops that day, I think this year there were 60 of them, had only 75 minutes each. All of you who have been to a Theatre of Understand know that we can’t do much in 75 minutes so, I decided to put a workshop together there. The workshop will be finished and will be announced later, we are working on a date now. For the banquet this year we went Chinese. The ten course dinner at the Golden Phoenix was delicious. We had two deserts, fortune cookies and anniversary cake. We laughed at John Speer because he didn’t get a fortune in his cookie. The reason why it’s funny is because John is retiring from his job soon. Ron C. and Aaron did a wonderful

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Good health, is one of the great gifts life has to offer. Many people strive to achieve it through various means. Among the most notable are the diets, fitness programs and prevention. We consciously make our choices based upon what we know and believe. Yet some people have returned to pre-AIDS era sex habits.

Over the past four months, I have spoken with numerous people in the Gay community about their sex practices, and learned that many people aren’t afraid of contracting HIV, nor any other STD. They’ve stated a myriad of reasons why condoms aren’t their “first choice” when having sex. Additionally, many others do not know their status, or have never been tested.

There is a killer in our midst. It has been twenty-six years since HIV/AIDS entered the American consciousness. Many organizations and individuals have contributed and raised money and continue to fight. Yet the threat to us is alive and growing. In the U.S., African-American and Latino communities have been hit hard, yet we languish. However, this does not have to be our fate. By empowering ourselves through education, prevention, and making wise choices we can overcome the increasing infection rate and the disease.

MACT, is a Gay Men’s organization which focuses upon racial equality, battling discrimination, and informing the Gay community. In the past, we played an active role in informing the community about HIV infection and precautionary measures. We need to continue those efforts because we are at war. Despite advances, a cure is still yet to be found!

I believe MACT can actively and diligently work with the existing agencies and groups to awaken the gay community from its denial and complacency. By doing so, we will remain true to our mission and help others in the process.

Matthew Barton

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G: Yes, our constitution and by-laws require racial parity and specify that the chairperson and vice-chairperson must be different races.

K: Is BWMT restricted to men only?

G: No, our membership policy is inclusive, not exclusive. Membership is open to all people who demonstrate an interest in the purpose and goals of the organization. At present, the group is predominantly male, but that may change in the future.

K: Who are the members of BWMT? Does there seem to be a common reason for joining?

G: From a survey done recently, we have found that our membership is composed of 50% black and 50% white people, with a wide age range from 14 to 72 years.** Our official membership totals 50, but because of the way people can become members, the real total is closer to 100. Members are people who attend 3 out of 5 meetings or contribute \$15---we wanted to tie membership to interest rather than economics. Most members become involved because they either are involved in an

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STEVIE continued from page 4

job hosting the banquet. It is always sad reading the list of our members who have died but I'm sure they would have been proud of our 26 year history. For those of you who weren't there let me tell you how some things went. The *Founders Award* was presented to **Nurit Shein** for exceptional dedication, service and advocacy on behalf of the health needs of Philadelphia's LGBT communities, **Donald Carter** was presented the *Resisting Racism Award* for his support of LGBT communities of color of Philadelphia and **Sister Mary Scullion**, who started with nothing but determination and compassion to begin the work with homeless that culminated in Project Home and related spin-offs was presented the *Community Service Award*. We also completed the election at the anniversary. Thirty-two of you voted and you came up with our new Steering Committee and board. They are – Co-chairs Aaron Libson and Nate O'Neal; Recording Secretary Ron Cropper; Correspondence Secretary Patrick Lewis; Treasurer Corbett Klein; National Reps. John Speer and Nate O'Neal; Members-at-Large Bob Hooks, Ron Sy, Steve Gilmour and Sam Fisher. We are still looking for a Social Chair and it would be really nice if we had a Political Chair also. Congratulations to all. John Barefield got an appreciation award for the wonderful work that he does opening up his home. I think this is the third anniversary that he has done this. Ron Sy also got an award for the work he did with the anniversary and getting us hooked up with Mike Lee, Eric Kephart and Tak Lee all of whom got appreciation awards. Also, John Speer, Art and myself got an appreciation award. Thanks to Jerry Lester and Al Reilly for their work they did on the web site. PayPal really is the way to go. And of course our entertainer Jacqueline DuPree alias James Coles sang beautifully and was just fabulous. I love it because he's a member. Oh, one more thing I forgot to say about the anniversary the Sunday Brunch was held at the Down Home Dinner inside the Reading Terminal Market. It was wonderful. That place is gigantic. It reminded me of the convention in New Orleans when we went to

BLACK & WHITE continued from page 4

interracial relationship or have had racism brought home to them in some way, where they began to think about the dynamics between the races.

K: Do you feel that BWMT has an image problem of being a non-political, basically social group?

G: In the beginning, there was some misunderstanding---some people thought we were a gay dating service. But that image is changing as we become more active and known. More people are realizing that we are serious about our goals. It is interesting that the New York group had the opposite experience---it was seen in the beginning as a solely political group, and its members wanted to increase the supportive and social aspects. In Philadelphia, we tried to insure that both social and political needs of our members were met.

* (Note from Jeff K.) I think Jerry is off by one year. We date our group's founding from 1981, and the San Francisco group was founded in 1980.

** (Note in original article) Members under 18 must have written parental/guardian consent.

the French Quarter. We also went to a place that we never went to before Haru Japanese restaurant. We were met there by ASIAC, Galaei and Long Yang Club. Interesting guys, we had a good time talking to all of them. They were quite interested in us also. Of course, Sunday Out street festival was wonderful. Repent America was there and they were ignored. They finally found a way to deal with them. I was so glad.

There was a party at Pure May 18th. Did anyone go? If you did, e-mail me about it and let me know what happened. I think Ron Sy helped putting that together also. He is so talented. Speaking about Ron Sy, he also had a ten year anniversary with the Jaded Lounge. It's incredible that he has been doing that for ten years. The show was utterly incredible. Our Jacqueline DuPree was there also and won an appreciation award from ASIAC for the work done for the Jaded Lounge. The show was wonderful as always and there will be another show in June. The information will be in the calendar.

It's time to pay your dues. Don't wait, pay them now. You are going to get a letter about that in the July newsletter.

And now summer is almost here and we will be going to the beach and camping. There is talk about a day trips to New York and Baltimore but all of this will be announced later. Well I guess this is it for now. I'm excited as always about the coming events. Hope to see you at all of them. That's it for now and remember this is your chapter and you all are responsible. Stay positive and stay strong. Stevie

Civil Unions – “Marriage” they are not!

For years Garden State Equality has argued that civil unions, while a step forward, do not provide all the state rights of marriage simply without the word “marriage.” That common definition of civil unions is a ruse.

The truth is, civil unions carry the everyday risk of providing none of the rights of marriage. That's what many civil-unioned couples in New Jersey are discovering today, as The New York Times uncovered.

For the few who might still believe, “We don't care what it's called, so long as we get the rights,” The New York Times underscores what Steve Goldstein of Garden State Equality always said. You've GOT to care what it's called, because if it's not called marriage, there's a dangerous chance you'll be denied the rights. Marriage is the only currency of commitment the real world consistently accepts.

Here are just some examples of what The New York Times found:

Nickie Brazier called U.P.S., where she is a driver, to add Heather Aurand to her health insurance the day after their Feb. 22 civil union in New Jersey, knowing it would save them \$340 a month. But U.P.S. said no. “They said it was because we're not married,” Ms. Brazier recalled.

“It just irks me that a guy they just hired, his wife — bing! —

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JUNE 2007

- Friday 01** **Steering Committee meeting**
 at Patrick home in Wilmington, DE
 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM
- Friday 08** **The Jaded Lounge**
 11:00 PM to 1:00 AM
 at the 12th AirCommand
- Saturday 09** **Bowling Party to benefit**
Philadelphia AIDS Thrift Store
 8:00 PM to 12:00 Midnight
 See page 3 for details
- Sunday 10** **Philadelphia Pride Parade & Festival**
 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM
 See page 1 for details
- Friday 18** **General Meeting at WWCC**
 7:30 PM to 10:00 PM
 Our last meeting until fall
- Sunday 24** **NYC Pride Parade & Festival**
 12:00 Noon to 7:00 PM
 Parade kicks off on 5th Ave. and 52nd St. If you want to
 march with MACT/NY meet them near 5th Ave. & 54th St.

JULY 2007

Friday, June 29 thru Wednesday, July 4

Hillside Camping
 See page 4 or details

Friday 01
 Steering Committee meeting
 7:30 to 9:00 PM

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has health insurance,” said Ms. Muench, 30, who declined to name her employer for fear of being fired. “What else does the gay American community have to do to prove that we’re worth it just as much as you guys?”

Dr. Kevin Slavin was able to sign his partner up for the health plan at the hospital where he specializes in pediatric infectious diseases but soon learned that both men’s benefits would be treated as taxable income — not the case for his married coworkers — and that his partner could not collect his pension if Dr. Slavin died.

Nearly two months after New Jersey became the third state to approve civil unions for same-sex couples, many are finding that all partnerships are not created equal, raising questions about whether the new arrangement adequately fulfills the promise of the State Supreme Court ruling that led to it.

In October, the court declared that the state’s Constitution “guarantees that every statutory right and benefit conferred to heterosexual couples through civil marriage must be made available to committed same-sex couples,” leaving it to the Legislature to decide how to do it. Lawmakers rejected the option of same-sex marriage, but pledged that “civil union couples shall have all of the same benefits, protections and responsibilities under law” that married couples have.

Men of All Colors Together Philadelphia

PO Box 42257
 Philadelphia, PA 19101

2007-2008 STEERING COMMITTEE

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Nevertheless, residents who work for companies headquartered in other states, and those whose insurers are based outside New Jersey, have found it difficult if not impossible to sign their partners up for health insurance. Unions and employers whose self-insured plans are federally regulated have also denied coverage in some cases. Staff members in doctors’ offices and emergency rooms have questioned partners’ role in decision-making. Confusion abounds over the interplay of state and federal laws governing taxes, inheritance and property.

Then there are cases like that of the lesbian who was told that she was likely to be denied coverage for a mammogram after she added her partner to her insurance. The insurance company changed the employee’s designation to male since there was no spot on its forms for “civil union spouse.”